GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1612
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
INCIDENTS OF FIRE
DHANI RAM SHANDIL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of fire have been increasing in the ammunition depot;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the losses suffered due to these incidents and the details of the godowns where incidents occurred during the above period, till date; and

(d) the steps taken to check these incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1612 FC 27.2.2003

The details of fire incidents in the Ordnance/Ammunition Depots during last three years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Ordnance Depots/ Ammunition Depots	Date of Incidence	Estimated loss of arms, ammunition and property
1.	Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur	28th April 2000	Rs. 393 Crores
2.	Ammunition Depot, Dehu Road	3rd May 2000	Nil
3.	Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur	28th May 2000	Rs. 4 Crores
4.	2 Ammunition Sub Depot, Mamoon (18 Field Ammunition Depot) Pathankot	29th April 2001	Rs. 27.69 Crores
5.	2 Ammunition Sub Depot Bridhwal (24 Field Ammunition Depot, Ganganagar)	24th May 2001	Rs. 375.04 Crores
6.	Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi	3rd June 2001	Rs. 2.87 Crores
7	Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur	6th August 2001	Nil
8.	Ammunition Depot, Dappar	27th July 2002	Nil
9.	19 Field Ammunition Depot, Jodhpur	2nd August 2002	Rs. 31.54 lakhs

2. All cases of fire incidents in Ordnance/Ammunition Depots have been investigated by Courts of Inquiry. Probable causes of fire in the Ordnance Depots, on analysis of past cases, are as under:-

(i) Fires due to spontaneous combustion.

(ii) Electrical Short-circuit.

(iii) Accidental explosions during testing/repair/breakdown of ammunition. However, human element had not been ruled out.

3. The following steps/remedial measures have been taken to ensure safety and security of Ammunition/Ordnance Depots:-

(i) All depots have been directed to update safety and security instructions.

(ii) All depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.

(iii) Shortages in fire fighting equipment are being made up and defective equipment repaired.

(iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed of on priority.

(v) Allotment of additional funds for creation of more Explosive Store Houses for shifting ammunition presently stored on plinths under canvas.